THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 52 complaints have been received by D.D.A.

(c) Several complaints are received at various levels in DDA in which allegations about use of sub-standard materials in DDA construction are made. Complaints are received from the individuals and various Welfare Associations etc besides Chief Engineer (Quality Control) and the Chief Technical Examiner's organisation under the Chief Vigilance Commission On receipt of these complaints, Vigilance Department of DDA conducts investigation through its technical cell and if allegations appear to be correct, departmental action is taken, if warranted, after the investigations are completed by the Vigilance Cell.

Besides, generally materials conforming to CPWD specifications and the relevant ISI specifications are used in the works and sub-standard materials, if any, are generally removed from the site and are not allowed to be used since the sites are inspected by the field officers, Chief Engineer (Quality Control) and the Chief Technical Examiner. Remedial action is taken as per the observations made by the various inspecting agencies.

Death of Animals due to starvation in Gujarat

718. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated the 13th October, 1987 wherein it has been stated that Sheep and Goats were dying of starvation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the number of animals which died of starvation in Gujaraat during the last six months; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No report about death of animals due to starvation has been received from the Government of Gujarat.

(c) Does not arise.

Rate of Price Rise

719. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the rate of price rise of food stuffs during the period from January, 1985 to March, 1987; and

(b) what steps are taken by Government to prevent the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Percentage variation in the wholesale Price Indices of selected food stuff items during the period January, 1985 to March, 1987 is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below)

(b) The main thrust of Government's policy is to increase production of various essential commodities, particularly those which are in short supply. Import of some essential commodities are made to augment domestic supply. Export of certain essential commodities are banned or regulated. The Public Distribution System is being strengthened and expanded State Governments and UT Administrations have been urged, from time to time, to strictly enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations

against hoarders, black marketeers etc.

To contain prices and improve availability of essential commodities in the wake of widespread drought conditions this year, several steps have been taken recently More than 2900 additional Fair Price Shops have been opened since August this year and more than 200 mobile vans are operating in various States. Additional allocations of rice, wheat, sugar and imported oils have been made to States and U.Ts in the last few months.

State Governments have been asked to effectively monitor prices and availability of essential commodities strengthen the Public Distribution System and to tighten up enforcement measures against hoarding, blackmarketing etc. Information received so far indicates that State Governments have generally taken steps in this direction.

Several meetings with representatives of trade and industry were held with a view to contain/reduce prices of essential commodities and to improve their supply. As a result of these discussions, manufacturers have agreed to reduce or refrain from increasing the prices of some commodities, *viz.* vanaspati, soap, tea, maida and butter.

Statement

Percentage variation in the Wholesale Prices Indices of Selected food stuff items during the period Jan., 85 and March, 1987

Commodity	Percentage variation in W.P. I. during the period Jan., 85 to March. 1987
Rice	+14 7
Wheat	+18 5
Jowar	+10 0
Bajra	+21 9
Barley	−5.3
Maize	+27 5
Ragi	+10.2
Gram	−32.1
Arhar	+39.9
Moong	−8.2
Masoor	−9.4
Urad	−1 2
Potatoes	+16 0
Onions	+50 1
Oranges	+83 7
Bananas	+71 5
Milk	+14.8
Butter	+25.1
Ghee	+11 5
Eggs	−9.7
Fish	+36.7
Meat	+28.6
Black Pepper	+112.4
Chillies	−64.3
Turmerio	−49.1
Tea	−11 9
Coffee	+14.5
Maida	+15.3
Atta	+29 0
Suji	+11.1
Biscuits	+13.7

Commodity	Percentage variation in W.P.I. during the period Jan, 85 to March, 1987
Bread	+14 1
Sugar	+23 8
Khandsari	+20 3
Gur	+7 0
Vanaspati	+49 4
Groundnut oil	+3 9
Mustard Oil	+39.4
Coconut Oil	—19 6
Gingelly Oil	+56 2
Kardi oil	+29 6
Cottonseed Oil	+45.7
Rice Bran oil	+40 0
Salt	—1 0
All Commodities	**+11 9**

Celebration of International Year of Shelter for Homeless

720 SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government celebrated 1987 as International Year of Shelter for Homeless;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons who got houses or housing plots till date; and

(c) what were the main objects during this year and what are the achievements till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India is observing the year 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for Homeless as declared by the UN General, Assembly, with the following objectives:—

(i) to demonstrate policies and strategies for the improvement of shelter and neighbour-hoods of some of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2001 A.D.

(ii) to implement those policies and strategies so that benefit accures to all the world's homeless by the year 2001A.D.

Points Nos., 14 & 15 of the 20 Point Programme, 1986 have been designated as the National Demonstration Project for IYSH. The details of the achievements under the 20 Point Programme during the last 7 years are as follows:—

	Name of the scheme	Cumulative achievement	Achievement during 1987 (upto 30-9-87)	
1.	Provision of House sites to rural Landless Workers [Point 14(a)]	73 lakh plots provided.	6,72,151	plots.
2.	Construction assistance on allotted house-sites [Point 14(b)]	28 lakh families assisted.	3,28,317	families.
3.	Houses for Economically Weaker Sections [Point 14(d)]	12 lakh dwelling units.	1,30,000	dwelling units.
4.	Environmental Improvement of Urban slums [Point No. 15(a)]	134 lakh slum dwellers.	14,85,000	Slum dwellers.